

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed, and reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1-6 and 9-10 were originally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Macor (6,792,833).

However, the Examiner has pointed out that claims 7-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

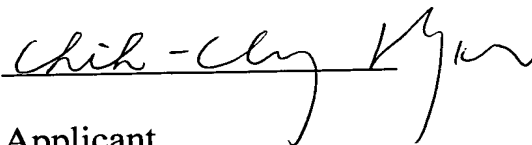
Responsive to this, claim 7 is deleted, and claim 1 is amended which is substantially the combination of original claims 1 and 7 so as to make the claimed invention more distinguishably patentable over the prior art reference cited by the Examiner.

Accordingly, by the above-mentioned amendments, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) should be withdrawn, and the amended claim 1 should be allowable.

It is further submitted that the amended claims 2-6 and 8-10 should be allowable as they are dependent upon the amended claim 1 which is believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is now in a condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Applicant

Chih-Ching Hsien

58, MA YUAN WEST ST.,

TAICHUNG, TAIWAN

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